

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/003421

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01B3/22 G01B21/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 496 758 A (JOSEPH SUNNEN) 24 February 1970 (1970-02-24) column 3, line 1 - column 8, line 22; figures 1-5	1-92,94
X	DE 44 21 372 A1 (BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND, VERTRETEN DURCH DAS BUNDESMINISTERIUM DER) 21 December 1995 (1995-12-21) column 2, line 31 - column 4, line 15; figures 1-5	1-92,94
X	GB 2 112 942 A (DOUGLAS CARVER * FINCH; BRYN DAVID * OWEN) 27 July 1983 (1983-07-27) page 2, line 105 - page 4, line 4; figures 1-4	1-92,94

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/03/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 214 960 A (NIELSEN SVEND G ET AL) 2 November 1965 (1965-11-02) column 2, line 56 - column 4, line 41; figures 1-7	1-92,94
X	US 2002/019718 A1 (LUIK ILMAR) 14 February 2002 (2002-02-14) paragraphs '0011! - '0018!; figure 1	1-92,94
X	US 2002/046005 A1 (ZHANG YUWU ET AL) 18 April 2002 (2002-04-18) paragraphs '0040! - '0056!; figures 1,2	1-92,94

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 93

The wording of independent claim 93 is so vague that the method for which protection is sought cannot be clearly identified:

- i) It is unclear how a measurement (an operation) can be set to a value (a number) equal to the real calibration measurement (again an operation) plus a length (a number plus a unit).
- ii) It is unclear what the "real" calibration measurement is.
- iii) It is unclear what the "mean tolerance allowed for that calibration measurement" is. Firstly, an "allowed" tolerance can be chosen arbitrarily. Secondly, what does "mean tolerance" mean in this context (a mean value with respect to time, with respect to a group of measuring instruments etc.?)

Accordingly, the features of the method of claim 93 are so obscure that no meaningful search is possible. Moreover, the only corresponding passages in the description (p. 12 and 29) merely repeat the vague wordings in claim 93 and they do not provide a basis for a clear identification of the subject matter, either.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 93
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB2004/003421

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3496758	A	24-02-1970	NONE	
DE 4421372	A1	21-12-1995	NONE	
GB 2112942	A	27-07-1983	NONE	
US 3214960	A	02-11-1965	NONE	
US 2002019718	A1	14-02-2002	NONE	
US 2002046005	A1	18-04-2002	JP 2002122404 A	26-04-2002
			JP 3594546 B2	02-12-2004
			JP 2002122403 A	26-04-2002
			DE 10150511 A1	25-07-2002